

detailing Minnesota's past include flags that were carried by Minnesotans who served in the Civil War and statues of influential Minnesota political figures.

Mr. Speaker, for the past 100 years the Minnesota State Capitol has served as a place of government, history and learning. As a fourth generation Minnesotan whose ancestors were well established in the state when this capitol was built, I am pleased to be able to help honor it today as a lasting symbol of the spirit of Minnesota.

HONORING LANCE CORPORAL
GREGORY PAUL RUND

HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 4, 2005

Mr. TANCREDO. Mr. Speaker, it is with deep regret and heartfelt admiration that I rise today to honor a fallen Marine from my district, Lance Corporal Gregory Paul Rund of Littleton. Sadly, Lance Corporal Rund was killed in the line of duty during combat operations on December 11 in the Al Anbar Province of Iraq.

Lance Corporal Rund was with Company I, 3rd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, Regimental Combat Team 1, 1st Marine Division based in Camp Pendleton, California.

He was just 21 years old.

Greg was a 2002 graduate of Columbine High School in Jefferson County, where he played football and later made the decision to serve his country by joining the Marines. Greg was serving his second tour of duty in Iraq when he was killed. He made an indelible impression on all who knew him, and will be remembered as a dedicated, energetic and warm person who had a great sense of humor.

Mr. Speaker, my deepest sympathies and heartfelt condolences go out to the family and friends of Lance Corporal Rund. He served his country honorably and with distinction, making the ultimate sacrifice fighting for freedom and democracy in defense of a grateful nation. He will be missed by all who knew and loved him.

Americans owe him a great debt of gratitude. His dedication and bravery will not be forgotten.

THE STOP COUNTERFEITING IN
MANUFACTURED GOODS ACT

HON. JOE KNOLLENBERG

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 4, 2005

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, today I am reintroducing legislation—the Stop Counterfeiting in Manufactured Goods Act. This bipartisan bill addresses the problem of counterfeit manufactured goods. I hope my colleagues will join me in passing this bill at the earliest opportunity.

The problem of counterfeit manufactured goods is a growing problem around the world that threatens public safety and harms our economy here at home. Too often, counterfeit goods steal sales from legitimate American manufacturers and cost Americans high-paying manufacturing jobs. In fact, according to

the U.S. Customs Service and Border Protection, counterfeiting costs the U.S. an estimated \$200 billion annually.

Manufacturers in this country are the most efficient and technologically advanced in the world, but they face many challenges. The biggest challenges are the costs they directly cannot control. We need to focus on measures that alleviate these costs, and crack down on those criminals that break the rules and drive up costs, thereby stealing manufacturing companies of what is rightfully theirs.

Counterfeiting is not just about lost sales and jobs, however. It is a means by which the most nefarious organizations finance their activities. Interpol Secretary General Ronald Noble has stated that “we know that al-Qaeda supporters have been found with commercial size volume of counterfeit goods.”

It is my belief, and that of a broad coalition backing this legislation, that to address the scourge of counterfeiting, the U.S. Government must possess additional tools. That is exactly what my bill provides.

The Stop Counterfeit in Manufactured Goods Act strengthens the federal trademark law used to prosecute counterfeiters with two key provisions.

First, the bill provides for the mandatory destruction of the equipment used to manufacture and package counterfeit goods. Under current law, counterfeiters can have their illegal goods seized, but retain the equipment they used to make them. We should not leave counterfeiters in business, and this provision will help us dig up the roots of counterfeiting networks.

The bill also clarifies that Title 18, Section 2320, prohibits trafficking in counterfeit labels, patches, and medallions that are unattached to any goods. Sophisticated counterfeiters have sold counterfeit versions of the trademarks themselves in the form of patch sets or medallions that can later be attached to generic merchandises and given the appearance of a genuine product. This is counterfeiting and should not stand.

The Stop Counterfeiting in Manufactured Goods Act will have a positive impact here in the United States and end the merciless stealing of American jobs and sales. In fact, the Department of Justice's Task Force on Intellectual Property cites this bill as a measure that would increase the effectiveness of intellectual property enforcement.

The bill's reach will also be global. The Office of the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) is currently engaged in a variety of bilateral and multilateral trade negotiations. However, USTR cannot readily negotiate criminal anti-counterfeiting standards above the levels found in the United States. By passing this bill into law, we will empower our negotiators to press for stronger anti-counterfeiting measures from our trading partners. The U.S. must lead by example in intellectual property rights enforcement and this is a critical step we must take. Clearly, the passage of the Stop Counterfeit of Manufactured Goods Act is long overdue.

I thank the bipartisan group of Members for joining as original cosponsors of this legislation. I encourage all my colleagues to join us in cracking down on the counterfeit goods that threaten public safety, steal sales from legitimate manufacturers, and cost American jobs.

I look forward to working with my colleagues to expeditiously pass this legislation into law.

Mr. Speaker, I submit the following letter on this issue for the RECORD:

AMERICAN APPAREL & FOOTWEAR ASSOCIATION, AUTOMOTIVE AFTER-MARKET INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION, GAS APPLIANCE MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION, GROCERY MANUFACTURERS OF AMERICA, INTERNATIONAL ANTI-COUNTERFEITING COALITION, INTERNATIONAL TRADE-MARK ASSOCIATION, MOTOR & EQUIPMENT MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF MANUFACTURERS, NATIONAL ELECTRICAL MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION, NATIONAL MARINE MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION, NATIONAL RETAIL FEDERATION, SPECIALTY EQUIPMENT MARKET ASSOCIATION, UNITED STATES CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

January 3, 2005.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN KNOLLENBERG: The organizations listed above write in support of your legislation to strengthen the criminal statute against trafficking in counterfeit goods. This bill would amend the U.S. Code, 18 U.S.C. 2320, by closing existing loopholes that can allow counterfeiters to avoid prosecution, maintain control of assets for criminal enterprises, and unjustly profit from their illegal activities. This legislation would grant trademark owners remedies similar to those already provided to copy-right and trade secret owners.

Acts of counterfeiting result in significant economic harm in the form of lost profits, diminished reputation among consumers, and decreased tax revenue. The FBI estimates that counterfeiting costs U.S. businesses \$200 billion to \$250 billion annually and is increasing rapidly. New York City estimates that in 2003 alone, the theft of intellectual property cost the city over \$1 billion in lost tax revenue. Another frightening trend relates to the rising occurrence of substandard and dangerous counterfeit goods that present severe public health and safety risks. Numerous deaths and injuries have already been attributed to counterfeit products. Finally, and perhaps most alarmingly, there is strong evidence suggesting that organized criminal groups and terrorist organizations are increasingly involved in criminal counterfeiting schemes.

Existing domestic laws should be bolstered to effectively address this problem. Your bill would strengthen those laws by prohibiting the trafficking in counterfeit labels, patches, stickers, hangtags, or medallions that are unattached to goods. In addition, the bill would make mandatory the forfeiture and destruction of counterfeit goods, as well as the assets used to produce, package, and distribute counterfeit goods, and requires the forfeiture of property and assets derived from counterfeiting.

Internationally, the World Customs Organization and Interpol estimate that the annual global trade in illegitimate goods has increased from \$5.5 billion in 1982 to roughly \$600 billion today and it continues to grow. Ambassador Zoellick, the U.S. Trade Representative, recently characterized trademark counterfeiting, along with copyright piracy, as a “scourge on the global economy.”

Immediate passage of this legislation is necessary to more effectively combat counterfeiting abroad. The Office of the U.S. Trade Representative advises that it will not negotiate criminal anti-counterfeiting standards above the levels found in current